



## Valero Refinery Aruba awards a record amount in donations to Aruban foundation

On Thursday afternoon management and staff of the Valero Refinery Aruba representing the Valero Energy Corporation had the enjoyable task of presenting checks Aruban Foundations devoted to assisting children and the mentally and physically challenged. The individual amounts ranged from 5,000 to 25,000 Aruban florins for a total of 377,360. Aruban florins (\$215,634. U.S.) donated to worthy island charities.

The funds are a portion of the proceeds from the record-breaking seven million dollars raised at the Valero Texas Open and the Valero Benefit for Children Gold Classic in San Antonio, Texas in September of 2006. The Valero Texas Open is an official PGA tour event played at the La Cantera course that attracted 144 top PGA professionals, and is the third oldest professional golf tournament in the United States.

The Valero Children's Golf Classic was established in 1996, and has raised more than \$17.5 million dollars for children's charities around the world, in communities wherever Valero has business operations. This past tournament set a record with 2,000 participants playing on eight gold courses and is conducted on the heels of the Valero Texas Open. An unprecedented seventeen companies sponsored the event, pledging amounts between \$100,000 and \$500,000 each for children's charities. Ninety percent of the funds raised by the two tournaments come from this event.

The seven million dollars raised is a new record in PGA tour history, and the Valero Texas Open set a record for the fifth consecutive year as the top charitable fundraiser on the PGA Tour.

More than 500 nonprofit organizations worldwide will benefit from the funds raised by the two tournaments. At the Westin Resort in Palm Beach, Raymond Buckley, vice-president and general manager of Valero Refinery Aruba and members of the refinery's workforce presented the donations to representatives of the twenty-five Aruban charities during a special ceremony. Seth Martijn, boat captain for Valero repeated his duties as Master of Ceremonies.

The community agencies receiving donations perform a variety of services for children and are dedicated to improving their lives. These services range from providing shelter and counseling for abused and abandoned children to educational and recreational programs for youth. Sports organizations that promote healthy pastimes for youth and the handicapped, Scouting, and the YMCA are an example of the many programs that were recognized as assisting island children.

The foundations to receive awards on Thursday afternoon were:

- Fundacion Pa Nos Muchanan
- Special Olympics
- Stichting Farva-Roeien met Gehandicapt
- Teen Challenge Foundation of Aruba
- Dakota Basketball Federation
- Sportvereniging Aruba Juniors
- Scouting Aruba
- Stg. Arubaaanse Jonges & Meisjes Gilde
- Het Arubaaanse Padvindsters Gilde
- Boys & Girls Brigade
- Stingray Swimming Federation
- Happy Kids Camp
- Sea Land Scouts
- Hopman Arowakken
- Fundacion Respeta Mi
- Orion Pathfinder Club
- Stichting Kinderhuis Imeldahof
- Stichting Clown Doctors Aruba

- Kinderdagverblijf Te Aworo
- Aruba Little League
- Fundacion Di Coro Infantil Y Hubenil
- Estrella
- LIFIDA
- Dakota Scol di Deporte Y Educacion
- YMCA

The organizations were nominated and selected by the employees of the Valero Refinery Aruba, and this is the third consecutive year that the refinery has made such awards in Aruba, with the number of organizations and amounts growing larger each year. Charities in the U.S. and Canada have also benefited from the proceeds of the tournaments, which won the Valero Corporation and the Valero Texas Open the Benefactor Award from the PGA Tour Tournaments Association. (PGATTA) Valero was also recognized by the PGATTA for surpassing twenty million dollars in charitable contributions. Prior to Valero assuming sponsorship in 2002, the tournament event had raised 4.6 million dollars for charity. Since becoming the Valero Texas Open, twenty-one million dollars has been raised, setting the record at \$25.6 million. In a final address to the gathering, Ray Buckley stated how proud Valero was to be able to assist the worthwhile work of the organizations, and encouraged the gathering to offer a round of applause for the foundation members that work tirelessly to provide for, protect, and guide Aruba's youth.